

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 ARA-06 NASA-01 OIC-02 AF-06 EA-07

EUR-12 NEA-10 FEA-01 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01

OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5502

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 6689

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: OUTER SPACE ISSUES IN LOS

1. AT AN "INFORMAL" MEETING OF JURIDICAL EXPERTS DISCUSSING THE ISSUE OF MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE LOS CONFERENCE, THE ISSUE OF SATELLITES CONDUCTING MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WAS DIRECTLY RAISED BY PERU AND MEXICO. DISCUSSION WAS CENTERED UPON A DEFINITION OF MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WHICH WOULD HAVE LIMITED ITS SCOPE TO RESEARCH ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT. PERU AND MEXICO SPECIFICALLY REJECTED THIS APPROACH AND STATED LOS TREATY SHOULD SPECIFICALLY DEAL WITH ISSUE OF MARINE RESEARCH FROM SATELLITES. THE US, USSR, FRG AND SWEDEN SUPPORTED THE LIMITATION EXPRESSLY STATING THAT DISCUSSION OF SATELLITES WAS BEYOND THE SCOPE OF THE LOS CONFERENCE AND WAS BEING SPECIFICALLY

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DEALT WITH IN OTHER UN FORUMS.

2. DURING THE CARACAS SESSION OF LOS CONFERENCE, GROUP OF 77 TEXT, A/CONF. 62/C.3/L.13/REV.2, MADE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO RESEARCH FROM SATELLITES. AT THAT TIME, MEXICO AND PERU WERE THE ONLY COUNTRIES PUBLICLY SUPPORTING INCLUSION OF SATELLITES IN WORK OF LOS CONFERENCE. DURING THE GENEVA SESSION THIS SPRING, THE GROUP OF 77 AMENDED L.13 AND DELETED SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO SATELLITES IN TEXT, BUT ADDED A FOOTNOTE STATING THAT THE GROUP OF 77 "AGREED TO DRAW UP APPROPRIATE PROVISIONS ON ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY SATELLITE, REMOTE SENSING DEVICES OR OTHER MEANS." INDIA HAS PRIVATELY CLAIMED CREDIT FOR REMOVING SPECIFIC REFERENCE FROM BODY OF TEXT AND CLAIMED IT WILL RESIST ANY ATTEMPT TO REINSERT PROVISIONS ON SATELLITES. THE SATELLITE QUESTION WAS NOT MENTIONED PUBLICLY DURING THE GENEVA SESSION.

3. COMMENT. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER STATEMENTS BY PERU AND MEXICO INDICATE A SERIOUS ATTEMPT TO INTRODUCE OUTER SPACE ISSUES INTO LOS CONFERENCE, BUT IT MAY BE APPROPRIATE FOR USUN TO APPROACH MEMBERS OF THE OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE TO SEEK AGREEMENT THAT LOS CONFERENCE NOT DEAL WITH OUTER SPACE ISSUES. DALE

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